

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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"THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARALLEL TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY," is the motto of The Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall. Serving as master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating especially to the great interests it represents, it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend and impartially the wrong condemn."—from Col. Polk's Salutatory, Feb. 10, 1886.

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

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We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, poultry raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and gardening; woman's work, literature, or any subject of interest to our readers, young people, or the family generally. Public matters, current events, political questions and principles, etc.—in short, any subject discussed in an all-round farm and family newspaper. Communications should be free from personalities and party abuse.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not in figures on a dial. In feelings, not in figures on a dial. We should count time by heart throbs, not by clock ticks. Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.

—Philip James Bailey.

The "Good Roads Train" will visit Raleigh, February 10th. We suppose that a state Good Roads Convention will be held at the same time. We should encourage every movement looking to the improvement of our highways, for there is probably no matter so closely affecting the public welfare in which as little progress has been made in the last half century.

COUNTY ALLIANCE MEETINGS.

Most of the County Alliance meetings will be held this week. No delegate should fail to attend, for good well-attended, business-like meetings here at the beginning of the year will greatly stimulate and encourage all friends of the Order.

Again, let each delegate resolve not to be satisfied with a formal, "out-and-dried" session doing only routine work. Discuss plans for increasing interest in Sub. meetings, and enlarging the membership. Take up point by point the subjects mentioned in Bro. Parker's excellent circular to County Secretaries and discuss them.

Finally, see that on some one is laid the responsibility of sending a report to The Progressive Farmer—not a mere outline of routine work only, but a report of views as to what can or should be done to build up the Order and promote its work.

IMPORTANT ARTICLES.

Among our December articles no others attracted so much attention as Mr. C. S. Wooten's "Life on the Old Plantation," and Mr. O. W. Blacknall's articles on terracing. In talking with our readers in the last few weeks, we have heard Mr. Wooten's articles very highly praised. We should be glad if he would write again of those old days he has so skillfully pictured.

Mr. Blacknall's terracing articles have awakened new interest in one of the most neglected of important farm questions. One Wake county reader says: "You have never printed a better article than Mr. O. W. Blacknall's letter on terracing in your issue of Dec. 24th. I hope you will get our people to thinking more about that important subject." By the way, we have a short rejoinder from Mr. Coolman which will appear next week, and we hope that Mr. Blacknall and others will discuss the question further in our columns.

SCRAPS FROM OUR MAIL BAG.

One reader wishes to know of whom he can obtain the Agricultural Department Year Book. He should apply to his Representative in Congress.

An Edgecombe county correspondent of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER writes us as follows regarding a book that we wish to join him in commending to our readers: "I have just been reading 'Black Beauty,' a book of horse talk. I think that everybody that handles a team ought to read it and then be made to heed it. In many sections more money is lost every year by mistreatment and starving of horses than is spent for schools. Let every horse owner read 'Black Beauty.' We may add that the book is sold at prices ranging from 15 cents to one dollar per copy."

A Rockingham county correspondent writes:

"I received a sample copy of your paper several weeks ago and noticed that there were several books advertised in it and priced including THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Will you kindly send me another sample copy and mark the one in your opinion that will suit me best? I am running a dairy farm and market garden and want all the information on these subjects possible. I sometimes have a sick cow and don't know what to give her; so would like to know something of how to treat in such cases. I will also have to practice feeding my cows in summer to some extent, instead of grazing altogether. I have some experience, but am not a professional, and want all the ideas I can get, and so am going to commence the new year by taking THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. I get a great deal of help from our Agricultural Experiment Station."

We always gladly welcome letters of this kind and, upon receiving this, wrote our correspondent that he needed Hord's Dairyman and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, both of which we send one year for \$1.85, the regular price being \$2. Dr. Burkett's articles on dairying will help this inquirer, and the Doctor will also answer any questions sent us regarding cattle or other live stock. (Let us repeat just here that we are always glad to receive such inquiries, and that in each case the request for information will have the attention of an authority upon the subject treated.) Our friend should also have a copy of Killebrew's "Grasses and Forage Crops," advertised on page 8.

It is a genuine pleasure to receive good-natured criticism and suggestions for improvement from readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER; we regret that there are not more letters of this class. One for which the writer has our thanks follows:

"Some time ago you requested your subscribers to let you know of any changes in your paper which they thought desirable. If you find it practicable to do so, it would be helpful to your readers if you were to indicate, at the upper left hand corner (in the old English style) the subject of which the paragraph treats. Few of us are willing to read a letter of half a column or more just to see if there is in it any thing of interest to us. Please make the change if you will can. Your editorials are on matters of general interest to citizens of the country. I enjoy your censures of wrong (as, for instance, the indecency and vulgarity at our State Fair) and your commendation of the good, whether of people or things. Especially do I love to read of the good and wise deeds and sayings of our public servants, judges and others."

This suggestion, received several weeks ago, we regarded as very good, and while it was not convenient to adopt the exact form asked for, the spirit of the request has been put into effect. That is to say, while it would be difficult to indicate the subjects treated in "the upper left hand corner of paragraphs," we have, since receiving this letter, given more attention to the headings and sub-heads of articles. All long articles we shall endeavor to divide according to the subjects treated, indicating each of the more important divisions by a small cap sub-head.

But we publish this friend's letter, not so much to explain his suggestion as to give us the opportunity of saying that such criticisms are always heartily welcomed. The editor wishes to co-operate with his readers in making THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of the greatest possible service to its constituency.

A MOTTO FOR THE NEW YEAR.

After considering all the verses that have occurred to us, including some from the great masters, we have found none that we regard as so worthy of commending to our readers as a New Year's motto as these four lines from some forgotten singer:

"If a cobbler by trade, I'll make it my pride
The best of all cobblers to be;
And if only a tinker, no tinker on earth
Shall mend an old kettle like me."

Here, we believe, is the philosophy that we all need—the teaching that "it's the doing, not the deed" that is most worthy of thought; that it is not the magnitude of the task, but doing it well that is most to be admired.

The world would be immeasurably happier were each of us to realize that it is not in doing deeds that attract public notice or applause, but in doing our best in our own sphere, whatever that may be, that true happiness and nobility is found.

Half the failures that our young men make are due to nothing else than the delusion that if they had important duties, responsible positions, they would do their work well, but that tasks of less importance may be slighted. These are the young men that never rise above menial positions and go down to their graves complaining of hard luck.

It is the young man who realizes that no task is so unimportant as to admit of poor work who is in training for more important duties and who wins the confidence and help of strong men who have learned that "in no art is it ever safe for a man to fall below the best that is in him."

Not all of us may choose our tasks for the New Year. "The Master of all Good Workmen" sets them for us and they are not always to our liking. But with whatever materials or tools He gives us, it is in our power to "be faithful in these things," and win the praise, "Well done, good and faithful servant," that He gives to worthy workers whether the task be large or small.

Even if doing well these smaller tasks did not mean promotion to nobler work, (as it almost invariably does) the effort would still be worth the making for the peace and joy that faithful work gives the laborer himself. The approval of one's own conscience and judgment outweighs the plaudits of the multitude, and it has always been true, as Shakespeare taught, that while "it is not in mortals to command success," it is nobler to deserve it—as does every man who "acts well his part," however humble that part may be.

IN THIS NUMBER—SOME RANDOM COMMENT.

FARM ARTICLES.

On page 1 we are printing the first of another series of articles on corn-raising, written by Mr. J. C. Suffern, whose articles on similar subjects published last winter attracted much attention. The paragraph on "How to Maintain the Vitality of Seed Corn" deserves especial consideration.

Harry Farmer talks of feeding hens for eggs, on which topic he will have more to say next week.

Many farmers put themselves to much trouble to burn all cornstalks, stubble, and other vegetable matter that would add humus to the soil. To all such people we commend Dr. Hunsbont's article on the first page.

Mr. Barrett has a very sensible letter on the diversification of crops.

Another very important subject, regarding which we have before published some interesting articles, is that discussed by Dr. Burkett in his live stock letter this week. A better understanding of this matter of type would save many thousands of dollars annually to our farmers. The milk record and the Babcock test would make this clear, and until these are put into more general use, the wasteful methods now in vogue will probably continue. A suggestive statement was that made by Dr. Burkett two weeks ago that our farmers would almost certainly be benefited if lightning should at once strike and kill the poorer half of the cows in the State.

PAGES 4 AND 5.

We hope that our series of famous poems is doing some good. Acquaintance with the best verse is helpful to every one, and we have given considerable time and thought to the effort to make this a worthy collection.

The "Recollections" of Commis-

stoner Wm. T. Harris, especially his memories of the famous "blue back" speller, will doubtless interest our older readers.

Valuable and thoughtful is Mrs. Fletcher's letter to "Aunt Jennie," because it bears striking testimony to the importance of intelligent poultry raising. But if any part of her letter is to be interpreted as advice to our girls to "strike out for themselves" after the manner of the "new woman," forsaking the nobler tasks of home-making and house keeping, then we hope that some of our lady readers who hold to the simple, Southern, and "old fashioned," if you please—idea of woman's sphere will present the other side of the question. By the way, the best thing that we have ever read on this subject is from the pen of Cardinal Gibbons, and appears in the Ladies' Home Journal for January.

We pity the man or woman who has so far outgrown childish things as to be unable to enjoy James Whitcomb Riley's child rhymes; another one of which appears on page 5.

Mrs. Stevens' "Nature Study" articles are excellent, and our readers, the younger ones especially, should not fail to give them attention. We have no doubt but that Mrs. Stevens would be glad to answer any inquiries relating to the subjects she discusses, and we hope that our friends will not hesitate to write us when in search of light on nature study problems.

NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS.

At the meeting of the North Carolina Association of Academies held in this city Dec. 27th and 28th, Prof. W. A. Withers, of the A. and M. College, read a paper that ought to be of interest to all our people. In fact, we are surprised that our enterprising daily contemporaries did not publish it in full, for it contains facts regarding North Carolina's place in the educational column that would surprise most readers, no one else having published a study of the Census Bureau's educational statistics made for the purpose of ascertaining the standing of our State.

Some extracts from Prof. Withers' paper follows:

The results of the census taken during June, 1900, and relating to education have been published in bulletin form and are now available. The facts contained in these bulletins are full of interest but not always of cause for congratulation. In fact, the condition of affairs in North Carolina is deplorable and should be improved. Whatever may be the indirect agencies employed, the direct agent will be the county school teacher. While it is the rule that all who teach must contend with ill preparation, small appreciation and little hope of great financial rewards, the country school teacher like the frontier settler is the hardest put to of his class. On the other hand, upon his labors as much as on any other man and more than most men, depends the civilization of the State. As giving some idea as to how much such services are needed your speaker will take the liberty of departing somewhat from the regulation form of welcome addresses and give you the results of his examination of the census reports referred to.

In the Western group of States (omitting New Mexico), the percentage of illiteracy of white males over 21 years of age is 14—a figure smaller than for any other group of States of the Union. Washington and Alaska, which belong to this group, have a percentage of only 0.5 which is less than that of any other State or Territory of our country.

In the North Atlantic States the percentage is 18, the lowest of the group being Massachusetts, 0.6 per cent.

In the North Central States the percentage is 24. The South Atlantic States have an average of 10.1 per cent., the highest being North Carolina with a percentage of 19.0. The States in this group approaching the figure most nearly are Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia, which have a percentage of between 12 per cent. and 12.6 per cent. but it will be noted that there is a considerable difference between the illiteracy in these States and North Carolina.

In the South Central States the white male illiteracy is 10.3 per cent. the highest member of the group being Louisiana with a percentage of 20.3.

For the whole of the United States the white male illiteracy is 6.5 per

cent. New Mexico is at the bottom of the list with a percentage of 24.5, Louisiana is next with a percentage of 20.3, and North Carolina comes third with a percentage of 19.0.

In North Carolina the county with the smallest percentage of white illiteracy is New Hanover with 5.1, but this is greater than for any entire State or entire group of States outside the South Atlantic and South Central Divisions except Missouri. The county with the next lowest percentage is Mecklenburg 8.8, followed in order by Guilford 10.9, Rowan 11.7, Cabarrus 12.6, Alamance 12.8, Transylvania 13.1, Halifax 13.2, Warren 13.3, Iredell and Pasquotank 13.4, Moore 13.5, etc. It would be interesting at some other time to inquire into the causes for this variation, but time will not permit at present. It is enough for present purposes to say that the percentage of white male illiteracy of our State is the same as that of the negro male illiteracy of the North Central States and greater than the negro male illiteracy of the North Atlantic States.

The Thinkers.

THE PESSIMIST WE HAVE ALWAYS WITH US.

Has there ever been an age this side of Eden when there was not some and even many, causes for pessimism? The Norfolk Landmark finds an old complaint that things were going to smash in the early days of the Republic, when everybody was supposed to be helpful of the future. The following letter, it says, was found in The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser of the year 1785:

"We are all going to the Devil as fast as we can—our Money is gone—our Trade ruined—our Countrymen no longer virtuous—our Countrywomen no longer industrious—our Gentlemen fit for nothing but to dress and to dance—our Ladies as foolish and more extravagant than ever—our Merchants turned Gentlemen—our Army friends to Monarchy—our Religion subverted—our old Staunch Whigs and Patriots abused as Bigots and Blockheads; in short, our whole Frame of State diseased."

And no doubt a hundred years before 1785 there were causes for pessimism as well as reasons for hopefulness, side by side; and a hundred years before that, too, and so on back in the centuries of the past; and there always will be in the future conditions that depress and sadden us, as well as others that rejoice us, like wheat and tares growing in the same field, until the millennium comes and our little star, blood stained, tear bedewed and sin-soiled in its six thousand circles round the sun, rolls on into its Golden Age. Speed the day!—Charles Lotte Observer.

A GOOD LAW.

Down at Goldsboro the other day a citizen who owned a \$7,000 mortgage undertook to foreclose it. Attorneys for the party who had given the mortgage looked into the matter and found that the mortgagee had failed to list it for taxation. Thereupon the proceedings came to a sudden termination, for under the law the collection of solvent credits cannot be enforced unless they have been listed for taxation, so the mortgagee will have to wait until another tax listing and list his mortgage for taxation if he desires to collect it. This law is a good one. It is not intended to and really does not encourage people in the non-payment of their just debts (many of them don't need any encouragement in that line), but it is intended to force men to return their property for taxation and to thus bear their just proportion of the public burdens along with their neighbors. A man rich enough to own a \$7,000 mortgage and mean enough to try to sneak out of paying taxes on it, deserves to lose about half of it.—Statesville Landmark.

THE TAXATION OF FRANCHISES.

It was a dramatic and almost sensational decision handed down by the Supreme Court of Illinois, whereby the public service corporations in the State must hereafter be taxed also on the value of their franchises and not as hitherto only on the value of their tangible property. The subject was brought before the court by an agitation begun by two teachers in the public schools of Chicago, Miss Haley and Miss Goggins. They

took the matter up because the insufficiency of the school fund was excused on the ground that the tax-limit had been reached. The decision of the court, which was unanimous and final, compels the Board of Equalization to assess the franchises of corporations at the same ratio of its market value as they assess other property. The result in Chicago alone is that the telephone, electric, gas, and street car companies must be taxed on about \$235,000,000 instead of \$33,000,000 as hitherto. There are, of course, other franchises that fall under the decision. But the decision will increase the income of the city of Chicago by about \$2,000,000 a year.

But this is not the whole benefit of the decision nor perhaps the most important; for it emphasizes and encourages one of the most pressing tax reforms that need making in most of our cities. The general escape of the owners of franchises from the tax-list has greatly encouraged the various doctrines of destruction and of unrest that have played a part in municipal politics and in the lobbies of State Legislatures. We owe to Mr. Roosevelt a plan for such taxation in New York City; and it is a subject of hopeful agitation in several Western States.—December World's Work.

FOR BETTER ROADS.

Why is the new road law better than the old?

1. The old law is not modern; it is out of date; it has no mark of progress in it. Boys under 21 years of age are required to work, and nearly every fellow who works out his time does more shirking than actual work.

2. Six days labor are required under the old. Under the new, only four days are required and any person subject to road duty (between ages of 21 and 45) may be released from road duty entirely by paying the sum of \$2, or 50 cents for each day into the road fund.

3. The result is better roads. Every man has to honestly perform his work or pay his money into the funds. It will be hard on the lazy man and the shirker.

4. All taxable property in the county would be subject to taxation for keeping up the roads. This only pinches the "close-fisted" man who has passed the age of 45, and who does not have loyalty enough in him for his county to care whether our people have to travel over hills, rocks and ditches, or whether the roads are passable or not. When you begin taxing railroads and corporations, in connection with the ordinary tax-payer's property it will make taxation low to all, and our roads will be kept up with less effort than now and be ten times better. The tax must be within the limits of 5 and 25 cents on the \$100 worth of property and 15 and 75 cents on the poll. A small percent of this would be all we need to begin on.

5. The man who is unable to pay the tax will undoubtedly be given the opportunity to work it out on the roads if he so desires. It bears lightly and equally on all.

6. Our convicts and convicts from other counties may be worked.

7. All money collected from this tax will go into one general road fund, and it applies to the whole county when once in operation.

8. It does away with the old antiquated system we now have, and it means better horses and bigger loads; fewer turns and straighter roads.

9. We are doing all this work free and at some expense and considerable loss of time. We are doing it for the sake of our subscribers and the farmers of the entire county, who have hauling to do, and in the interest of every business man in the county who would profit by good roads. No county was ever more in need of good roads than ours; no county ever had worse roads.

10. Now is the time to act. Sign our road petition. Come get a blank from us and get signers, and help a good cause. It would disgrace us not to act on this now. We have confidence in the people of Stanly to believe that there are 300 land owners who are anxious to lend their names to this cause. They will be the pioneers of good roads in Stanly and we propose to print the entire 300 names, that we may keep them on record. Our petition is open to all.—Stanly Enterprise.

Farm hands, if they wish success, must work as if the farm were their own. They should conduct themselves so faithfully that a stranger would think they owned the farm and family.